

# **POLICY BULLETIN**

## **CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

**NSLP 25-06**

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**SUBJECT: Verification Sample Size**

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Section 9(b)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) was amended by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265, to specify verification sample sizes for Local Education Agencies (LEAs). As stated in section 9(b)(3)(D)(iii) of the NSLA, the standard sample size is the lesser of three percent (3%) or 3,000 of the approved applications on file as of October 1. It is important to note that the NSLA, as revised in 2004, now establishes an exact sample size for routine annual verification activities. Local education agencies must verify at least as many applications as calculated by the sample formula but may do no more.

While the verification sample cannot exceed the statutory limits, LEAs still have an obligation to verify questionable applications (for cause). For cause may include but is not limited to situations where school officials have knowledge of household circumstances that would cause them to verify the information on the application. It is important to note that this restriction on sample size does not apply to a State's ability to conduct application verification activities connected to its general oversight responsibilities.